

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02

ACDA-05 NIC-01 IO-10 /073 W
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P R 080804Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9286

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS ERUPT ON LOCAL CAMPUSES

REF: (A) SEOUL 2229; (B) SEOUL 2159

1. FOR PAST TWO DAYS, SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (SNU), KOREA AND SAGANG UNIVERSITIES HAVE BEEN SCENE OF SIGNIFICANT ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS. YONSEI UNIVERSITY REMAINS CLOSED FOLLOWING ITS SERIES OF EARLY APRIL PROTESTS. (REF A).

2. SEVEN TO EIGHT HUNDRED STUDENTS RALLIED AT SNU ON APRIL 7, CALLING FOR AMENDMENT AND/OR REPLACEMENT OF YUSHIN CONSTITUTION AND RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY. ALTHOUGH SEVEN COLLEGES OF SNU WERE CLOSED ON APRIL 8, DENTAL COLLEGE DEMONSTRATED DESPITE CLOSINGS, REPEATED APRIL 7 DEMANDS, AND TRIED TO RUSH SNU FRONT GATE.

3. DEMONSTRATIONS AT KOREA UNIVERSITY GREW FROM APPROXIMATELY 12 TO 15 HUNDRED STUDENTS ON APRIL 7 TO MORE THAN 2,000 ON APRIL 8. 500 HAD REMAINED ON CAMPUS OVERNIGHT. SHOUTING "DOWN WITH DICTATORIAL
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GOVERNMENT", STUDENTS CONFRONTED POLICE AT GATES.

DEMONSTRATORS LOBBED STONES AND POLICE RESPONDED WITH
TEAR GAS AND PEPPER FOG.

4. BETWEEN EIGHT HUNDRED TO ONE THOUSAND STUDENTS OF
SOGANG UNIVERSITY RALLIED ON APRIL 7, OPPOSING IN
PRINCIPLE SUSPENSION OF COLLEGE CLASSES AND CALLING FOR
PUNISHMENT OF THOSE WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLEGED
TORTURE OF EMERGENCY MEASURES PRISONERS.

5. ROKG RELEASED TO MEDIA ON APRIL 7 STATISTICS
ON NUMBERS OF STUDENTS REFERRED TO LOCAL SUMMARY COURTS
OR IN POLICE CUSTODY SINCE MARCH 11. (49 PLUS TWO
NON-STUDENTS) FIFTEEN STUDENTS ARE FROM SNU; TWENTY-FIVE
FROM YONSEI; FOUR FROM KOREA; FOUR FROM SOGANG; AND
ONE FROM HANKUK.

6. COMMENT: DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE BUT VIOLENCE
HAS BEEN MINIMAL DESPITE REPORTED STONE THROWING. ON-SCENE
OBSERVERS COMMENT THAT STUDENTS SO FAR APPEAR "SERIOUS"THOUGH
NOT "IMPASSIONED" AS HAS BEEN OFTEN APPARENT IN PAST.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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